

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A nasal cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen to a patient, the nasal cannula comprising a length of high pressure narrow bore tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.
2. (Currently Amended) A The nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is coiled.
3. (Currently Amended) A The nasal cannula according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is of a ductile metal or alloy.
4. (Currently Amended) A The nasal cannula according to claim 3, wherein the alloy is a cupro-nickel alloy.
5. (Currently Amended) A The nasal cannula according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is surrounded by a protective sheath.
6. (Currently Amended) A The nasal cannula according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the nasal administration device defines a nasal prong or a pair of nasal prongs.
7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus An apparatus for administering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen including means for supplying the breathable gas mixture at a high pressure and a nasal cannula ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 6~~ comprising a length of high pressure narrow bore tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the

breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the said means includes a gas cylinder in which the breathable gas mixture is stored under pressure.
9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains from 70 to 80% by volume of helium and from 20 to 30% by volume of oxygen.
10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus The apparatus according to ~~claim 8 or~~ claim 9, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture is stored in the cylinder at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar.
11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains 72% by volume of helium, balance oxygen.

Date: JULY 21, 2005

The BOC Group, Inc.
Legal Services-Intellectual Property
575 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, NJ 07974

Respectively submitted,



Philip H. Von Neida
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,942
908-771-6402